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June 1, 2018



Annual Meeting is Next Weekend, June 8-9, 2018

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference is NEXT WEEKEND! Please join us at Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia on Friday and Saturday, June 8 & 9, 2018. There is a Healthy Boundaries Training class for Authorized Clergy scheduled on Wednesday, June 6 and Retreats for both Authorized Ministers and for MIDs and PIEs on Thursday, June 7. Although the housing registration deadline has passed, you can still register for events as a daytime attendee. [All the details are available on our website.](#)

From the Conference Minister

Dear Friends,

One of the most important things we, as the Southeast Conference UCC, can do with and for each other is to pray. Prayer connects us despite how many miles are between our congregations. Prayer ties us together with cords that do not break. Prayer reminds all of us that we never journey this life alone. Prayer is needed all the time, but most especially when the worst strikes.



This week I received word that Holy Trinity Community Church, UCC in Nashville experienced a great tragedy. One of the congregation's active members was murdered in his home. It has been all over the Nashville news. The congregation is broken-hearted and grieving. Their pastor, Rev. Dr. Brice Thomas, called me this week requesting prayers from all of us as they grapple with the unimaginable. Please lift this congregation, family, pastor, and community in prayer this week and in the weeks to come. They will feel your love and support. They will know that they do not journey this dark valley alone. They will know that we grieve with and for them.

We are the UCC family of the Southeast. When one of us suffers, we all do. Please join me in carrying the burden of Holy Trinity, Nashville.

Blessings,
Marie

P.S. Don't forget annual meeting is next week! Please join us so we can celebrate together!



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2018. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2018 prayer list.](#)

Week of June 4

- Real Inspiration Ministries; Decatur, Georgia
- Christy Bonner
- Andrew Frierson, Jr
- Glenna Shepherd
- Winthrop Stone

Week of June 11

- Virginia Highland Church; Atlanta, Georgia
- Members in Discernment and Persons in Exploration
- 52nd Annual Meeting, Southeast Conference
- Adrian Boone
- Dorothy Gager
- Ray Speller

Prayer Requests

- Please lift in prayer the **Holy Trinity Community Church** (Nashville) congregation, family, pastor, and community as they mourn the loss of active member Alan Edwards. (See Marie's article above for more details).
- The UCC mourns the passing of **Marilyn Breitling**, the denomination's first woman national executive. [Learn more about Marilyn](#) and her trailblazing ministry on the UCC website.

Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Birmingham, AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta, GA; Sandy Creek, Lafayette, AL; Church of the Savior, Alpharetta, GA

News from our Local Congregations

A Busy Weekend Across the Southeast Conference

May 19 and 20, 2018 was a busy weekend of ministry across the Southeast Conference, with our Conference Ministers visiting four of our congregations as they celebrated.

- United Church of Cookeville: Installation of James Bowman Harris as Pastor
- First Congregational UCC, Talladega: Celebrating 150 Years
- Beloved Community Church, Birmingham: Celebrating 18 Years
- Church of the Savior UCC, Alpharetta, GA: Service of Celebration

[View photos and more on our website.](#)



News from the Wider Church

Board Leadership Elected at Back Bay Mission

At its May 4-5, 2018 meeting the Back Bay Mission Board of Directors elected officers for 2018-19. They are President Matt Williams, Vice President Rev. Jasmine Quinerly, Secretary Crystal Allen, and Treasurer Brent Johnson.

Back Bay Mission traces its history to the 1920s, when members of Biloxi's First Evangelical Lutheran Church responded to needs of poor fisher folk on the Back Bay. In 1957 Back Bay Mission became affiliated with the United Church of Christ and continues to have strong relationships and support

from UCC churches and UCC members. [Read more on our website.](#)



Thinking about Going Solar?

Learn more about the challenges, opportunities, and best practices related to solar for religious and spiritual communities in tomorrow's Creation Justice Churches webinar. [Learn more and register now on the UCC website.](#)

UCC Resources for Pride Month

As we celebrate PRIDE month in June we want to encourage you to head over to [#UCCResources](#) to check out the free PRIDE digital downloads. This year's slogan for PRIDE is "Stretch Out Your Hand With PRIDE", we hope you all enjoy and find great ways to use this gift as well as the other merchandise available for

sale. <https://www.uccresources.com/collections/lgbtq>



Join the UCC Disabilities Ministries Board

The [UCC Disabilities Ministries](#) Board Nominations Committee is seeking two people, for two different service terms, one ending in October of 2019 and the other, October of 2022, who are passionate about disability ministry. The Board is made up of people with disabilities, professionals who work in the disability field, and family members of people with disabilities. Their mission is to encourage our denomination to create worship and meeting places, programs and leadership opportunities that are Accessible to All ([A2A](#)) and welcoming and inclusive of all persons with disabilities. [Learn more on their website.](#)

Enrich Your UCC Identity

Interactive, engaging UCC identity materials are now available for congregations, new member classes, committees and more. Plan a summer program using the videos and discussion guides. [Check out these free resources available from the UCC](#). As an added bonus, as you watch the videos watch for a number of folks from the Southeast Conference who have provided content and narration!

Training and Learning Opportunities

Generosity NEXT 2018

“Abundance or Sufficiency? A Biblical Vocabulary for Sustainable Stewardship” is the topic for Generosity NEXT, November 28-29, 2018 in Tampa, Florida. Cameron Howard, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, will be the plenary speaker.

Cameron will give three presentations:

- Exploring the Bible’s Vocabulary of Sustainability
- The Language of Stewardship: Rethinking Traditional Messages & Discovering New Words
- New Ideas, New Language, New Practices

Save the date and plan to attend this unique seminar that explores how current culture informs faithful stewardship and generous giving.

Registration will open in August. More information about location, topic, and speakers will be shared when it is available. Generosity NEXT explores how current culture informs faithful stewardship and generous giving.

[More details on their website.](#)

Mediation Skills Training Institute in Alabama

You are invited to attend ***Mediation Skills Training Institute***, a five-day workshop for clergy and church leaders that teaches participants how to deal with conflict in their church, home, and/or workplace in effective and healthy ways. This interdenominational workshop will be held at the beautiful Maranatha Camp and Conference Center in Scottsboro, AL from August 27-31, 2018. It will be hosted by the Presbytery of North Alabama and presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. For information about registration and fees—including meals and on-site lodging at Maranatha Camp—please contact Reverend Thomas Lewis at pastor@copeland-church.org or 256-468-0383, or visit the website of the North Alabama Presbytery at <https://napcusa.org/>.

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